Import of edible oil

*74. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is importing nearly half of its total consumption of edible oil.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of production of edible oil in the country during the last three years;

(d) the details of imports of edible oil in the country during that period;

(e) whether there is a sharp fall in the production of edible oil during the period 1996-2003;

(f) if so, the details along with the reasons for the same;

(g) whether Government have contemplated any comprehensive plan to enhance the production of edible oil in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir, However, due to persistent gap between demand and indigenous supply, edible oils are imported. The details of production, import and estimated consumption during the last three years are as under:—

(in lakh MT)

Year	Production of Edible Oil	Imports of Edible Oils	Consumption (Net availability plus import)
1	2	3	4
2000-01	62.99	41.77	96.76
2001-02	69.56	43.22	104.78
2002-03	55.17	42.66	89.63

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Due to decline in oilseeds production the indigenous

production of edible oils decreased from 81.27 lakh MTs in 1996-97 to 55.17 lakh MTs in 2002-03.

(g) and (h) Some of the steps taken by the Government to enhance production of edible oils in the country are:

(i) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds is to increase the producion and productivity of oil seeds in the country.

(ii) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like tree borne oils seeds, rice barn oil etc. to increase availability of edible oils.

(iii) Assistance for Oil Palm development

(iv) Better incentives to producers through fixation of Minimum support Price (MSP)

(v) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of Vanaspati upto the level of 12% production has been made mandatory.

Suicides by Farmers

†*75. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some news related to the suicide by farmers have come to light in different States specially in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala;

(b) if so, the names of such States where from news regarding such suicides by the farmers have been received so far;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the root cause of these suicides; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Cases of suicide by farmers have been reported from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura. Government of Kerala has reported no case of suicide by farmers in the State.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.